

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF SELECTION

Right Hon. Mr. GRAHAM presented the report of the Committee of Selection, and moved concurrence therein.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I suggest that the names be not read at the table. There have been only two or three changes in the whole list. I wonder if it is necessary to read them.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: I do not think I could give the changes accurately, but I fancy the Chairman of the Committee could, and that would be all the House would wish.

Right Hon. Mr. GRAHAM: The changes are largely due to the passing of Senator Rankin and Senator Wilson.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: And the absence of Senator McLean.

Right Hon. Mr. GRAHAM: And the absence of Senator McLean. Certain adjustments had to be made.

The motion was agreed to.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

ADDRESS IN REPLY

The Senate resumed from yesterday consideration of His Excellency the Governor General's speech at the opening of the session and the motion of Hon. Mr. Coté for an Address in reply thereto.

Hon. J. P. B. CASGRAIN: Honourable senators, when I was politely invited last night to adjourn the debate, which meant to stop talking, I was just about to draw a parallel between the careers of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the Right Honourable Richard Bedford Bennett. It is strange how the careers of these two eminent men have paralleled each other in the twentieth century—which Laurier said would be Canada's century, as the nineteenth had belonged to the United States. Both men became outstanding lawyers, and had they adhered to the practice of their profession they perhaps would have been the brightest legal lights in Canada. They preferred to serve their country. However, that does not mean that they neglected the practice of law in their younger days. Nature seems to have lavished on these two men all its greatest gifts, both mental and physical. Everyone who saw Sir Wilfrid Laurier will admit that no one had a more dignified bearing than that man, who was born in Saint Lin, a humble village in the province of Quebec. He had a distinguished appearance, which is very useful for one who aspires to be chief or leader of a party, be-

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cause before a leader is known he is seen, and if he has a poor appearance his work will be much more difficult. Of course there are exceptions. Nobody would say that Napoleon was not a great man, yet he was small physically. And in recent times Dolfuss of Austria, who became a very prominent statesman, happened to have an unusually small body. A great deal of prestige goes with a fine presence.

As I have said, both Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Mr. Bennett became eminent at the Bar. When Mr. Laurier, as he was then known, would come to Quebec to plead before the Court of Appeals, all the members of the legal fraternity who were free—and in the province of Quebec there are many lawyers who have free moments—

Right Hon. Mr. GRAHAM: If they are not otherwise free.

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN: They would come there to admire Mr. Laurier's speeches. Needless to say, he nearly always won his cases. He practised at law because it was necessary for him to make a living. The present Prime Minister of Canada was no mean lawyer either. Clients who went to the firm of Loughheed and Bennett would see about eighty persons in the office, including stenographers, bookkeepers and lawyers. There was really mass production of legal documents in that office. Hon. H. H. Stevens might have had an inquiry to see whether the firm charged proper rates to their clients and also whether they paid fair wages.

I think the Right Hon. Prime Minister himself would be the first to acknowledge that Sir Wilfrid Laurier was his superior in the principles of Roman law; but with respect to commercial law there is no doubt that the Right Hon. Richard Bedford Bennett could have given cards and spades to Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

Both were eloquent, each in his own style, and many admirable speeches delivered by them in the other House can be found in the Commons Hansard. To my mind the best speech I have ever read was made by the present Prime Minister when for four and a half hours he spoke against the Government making a \$45,000,000 loan to Mackenzie & Mann on the security of their rotten stock. At that time the member for Calgary was a young man of fine physique. He could have turned the heads of all the ladies of Ottawa—had he wanted to. The invigorating air of Calgary, situated 3,600 feet above sea level, had filled him with ozone and pep. If at that time Parliament had heeded him and the honourable member for Kingston, Mr. W. F. Nickle, and me, the country to-day